

**WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE**

**HOLDEN ♦ PAXTON ♦ PRINCETON ♦ RUTLAND ♦ STERLING**

Minutes

Special Meeting #241 Thursday, October 10, 2002

7:00 PM

Media Center  
Wachusett Regional High School

*Committee Members Present:*

John Rokicki, Chairman	Peter MacDonald
Duncan Leith, Vice-Chairman	Kelly Maxwell
Donald Benson	Natalie Mello (8:30 PM)
Carol Esperti (7:27 PM)	John Nunnari
David Fedeli	Julie Scott (7:58 PM)
Kimberly Ferguson	Kathleen Singh
Jeffrey Gibbs	Tammy Tod (8:07 PM)
Jane James	Edwin Twarog
Alice Livdahl	Margaret Watson
David Lowenthal	Patricia Young (7:45 PM)

*Committee Members Absent:*

None

*Administration Present:*

Alfred D. Tutela, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools  
Paul K. Soojian, Director of Operations

*Others Present:*

Linda Lehans, *The Landmark*  
Stacy Grossi, *Worcester Telegram & Gazette*  
Christine Nelson, *Sterling Meetinghouse News*  
Remo Rossi, Chair, Sterling Selectboard  
Stan Moss, Princeton Selectboard  
Mark James, Holden  
Larry Floryan, Holden  
Maureen Floryan, Holden  
David Gibbs, Sterling  
Ann Quill, Sterling  
Melinda Johnson, Paxton  
Ron Johnson, Paxton

Jeffrey Wentzell, Paxton  
David Clark, Sterling

I. Call to Order

Chairman John Rokicki called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

The Superintendent distributed the Agenda (attachment 1).

II. Public Session

Mark James, Holden, read a prepared statement (attachment 2).

Maureen Floryan, Holden, read a prepared statement (attachment 3).

David Gibbs, Sterling and Larry Floryan, Holden, presented *Operating Costs Analysis* (attachment 4).

III. Discussion Regarding the Permanent High School Facility Solution

Motion: To consider a compromise position to put forward to the voters  
(P. MacDonald)  
(K. Singh)

Chairman John Rokicki informed the Committee that discussion on this motion would be for ten minutes.

Motion: To move the question  
(T. Tod)  
(C. Esperti)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Donald Benson  
Carol Esperti  
Kimberly Ferguson  
Jeffrey Gibbs  
Jane James  
Alice Livdahl  
John Nunnari  
Tammy Tod  
Patricia Young

Opposed:

Duncan Leith  
David Fedeli  
David Lowenthal  
Peter MacDonald  
Kelly Maxwell  
Julie Scott  
Kathleen Singh  
Edwin Twarog  
Margaret Watson

Abstained:

John Rokicki

(Motion failed 9-9-1)

Discussion continued.

Roll call vote on the Motion, which reads: To consider a compromise position to put forward to the voters

In favor:

Carol Esperti  
David Fedeli  
Peter MacDonald  
Kathleen Singh  
Tammy Tod

Opposed:

John Rokicki  
Duncan Leith  
Donald Benson  
Kimberly Ferguson  
Jeffrey Gibbs  
Jane James  
Alice Livdahl  
David Lowenthal  
~~Natalie Mello~~  
John Nunnari  
Julie Scott  
Edwin Twarog

Patricia Young  
Margaret Watson

Abstained:  
Kelly Maxwell

(Motion failed ~~5-14-1~~ 5-13-1)

Motion: To take the modulars off the November 16, 2002 Special  
Town Meetings

(J. Gibbs)  
(D. Fedeli)

The Superintendent advised the Committee that modulars are temporary  
and accreditation requires a permanent long-term solution.

Member Carol Esperti left the meeting at 8:40 PM.

Motion to Amend: By adding “and to schedule a Special Town Meeting  
on December 3, 2002 for the modulars if a long-term solution failed.

(J. Gibbs)  
(K. Maxwell)

Roll call vote on the Motion to Amend:

In favor:

John Rokicki  
Duncan Leith  
Donald Benson  
Jeffrey Gibbs  
Jane James  
Alice Livdahl  
Kelly Maxwell  
Natalie Mello  
John Nunnari  
Julie Scott  
Tammy Tod  
Patricia Young  
Margaret Watson

Opposed:

David Fedeli  
Kimberly Ferguson

David Lowenthal  
Peter MacDonald  
Kathleen Singh  
Edwin Twarog

(Motion to Amend passed 13-6)

Motion to Amend: By substituting “ballot vote” for “Special Town Meeting”

(K. Singh)  
(E. Twarog)

Chairman Rokicki limited discussion to ten minutes on the motion.

Roll call vote on the amendment:

In favor:

David Fedeli  
Kimberly Ferguson  
David Lowenthal  
Peter MacDonald  
Kelly Maxwell  
Kathleen Singh  
Tammy Tod  
Edwin Twarog

Opposed:

John Rokicki  
Duncan Leith  
Donald Benson  
Jeffrey Gibbs  
Jane James  
Alice Livdahl  
Natalie Mello  
John Nunnari  
Julie Scott  
Margaret Watson  
Patricia Young

(Motion failed 8-11)

Member David Lowenthal left the meeting at 9:30 PM.

Roll call vote on the main motion, as amended, to read: To take the modulars off the November 16, 2002 Special Town Meetings and to schedule a Special Town Meeting on December 3, 2002 for the modulars if a long-term solution failed.

In favor:

Duncan Leith  
Donald Benson  
David Fedeli  
Jeffrey Gibbs  
Jane James  
Alice Livdahl  
Kelly Maxwell  
Natalie Mello  
John Nunnari  
Julie Scott  
Edwin Twarog  
Margaret Watson  
Patricia Young

Opposed:

John Rokicki  
Kimberly Ferguson  
Peter MacDonald  
Kathleen Singh  
Tammy Tod

(Motion passed 13-5)

Member David Lowenthal returned to the meeting at 9:35 PM.

Following a question regarding the possibility that the Town of Princeton would not schedule a Special Town Meeting on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Superintendent reminded the Committee that as the chief executive office for the District it is his responsibility to implement School Committee action and would prepare petitions, if necessary.

Motion: To direct the Superintendent to conduct an analysis of the operational costs of B1 and A1 compared to current costs, assuming today's educational plan.

(D. Benson))  
(A. Livdahl)

The Superintendent advised the Committee that this would create the perception of the Superintendent taking sides. This is part of the contract with Strekalovsky & Hoit and the Superintendent indicated that he would direct the consultants to complete this analysis.

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Duncan Leith  
Donald Benson  
David Fedeli  
Jeffrey Gibbs  
Alice Livdahl  
Peter MacDonald  
Natalie Mello  
John Nunnari  
Margaret Watson  
Patricia Young

Opposed:

John Rokicki  
Kimberly Ferguson  
Jane James  
David Lowenthal  
Kelly Maxwell  
Julie Scott  
Kathleen Singh  
Tammy Tod  
Edwin Twarog

(Motion passed 10-9)

Motion: That the long-term high school plan offer open enrollment school choices

(K. Singh)  
(P. MacDonald)

Motion: To extend the meeting for thirty minutes

(K. Maxwell)  
(D. Fedeli)

Roll call vote:

In favor:

Donald Benson  
David Fedeli  
Kimberly Ferguson  
Alice Livdahl  
David Lowenthal  
Peter MacDonald  
Kelly Maxwell  
John Nunnari  
Julie Scott  
Kathleen Singh  
Tammy Tod  
Edwin Twarog

Opposed:

Duncan Leith  
Jeffrey Gibbs  
Jane James  
Natalie Mello  
Margaret Watson  
Patricia Young

Abstained:

John Rokicki

(Motion passed 12-6-1)

A friendly amendment was offered by Member David Lowenthal and accepted by Members Kathleen Singh and Peter MacDonald, to have a preferential seating for the two school option by town and that available seats would be offered on a lottery basis.

Motion: To move the question

(T. Tod)  
(E. Twarog)

Roll call vote:

In favor

David Fedeli  
Jane James



John Nunnari  
Kathleen Singh  
Tammy Tod  
Edwin Twarog

Opposed

Duncan Leith  
Donald Benson  
Kimberly Ferguson  
Jeffrey Gibbs  
Alice Livdahl  
David Lowenthal  
Peter MacDonald  
Kelly Maxwell  
Natalie Mello  
Julie Scott  
Margaret Watson  
Patricia Young

Abstained

John Rokicki

(Motion failed 6-12-1)

Roll call vote on main motion, which reads: That the long-term high school plan offer open enrollment, preferential seating for the two school option by town and that available seats would be offered on a lottery basis.

In favor:

John Rokicki  
Donald Benson  
David Fedeli  
Kimberly Ferguson  
David Lowenthal  
PETER MACDONALD  
Kelly Maxwell  
Julie Scott  
Kathleen Singh  
Tammy Tod  
Edwin Twarog  
Patricia Young

Opposed

Duncan Leith  
Jeffrey Gibbs  
Jane James  
Alice Livdahl  
~~Peter MacDonald~~  
Natalie Mello  
John Nunnari  
Margaret Watson

(Motion passed ~~11-8~~ 12-7)

IV. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn

(A. Livdahl)  
(N. Mello)

Vote:

In favor:

John Rokicki  
Duncan Leith  
Donald Benson  
David Fedeli  
Kimberly Ferguson  
Jeffrey Gibbs  
Jane James  
Alice Livdahl  
David Lowenthal  
Peter MacDonald  
Kelly Maxwell  
Natalie Mello  
John Nunnari  
Julie Scott  
Kathleen Singh  
Tammy Tod  
Edwin Twarog  
Margaret Watson  
Patricia Young

Opposed:

None

(Motion passed unanimously)

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alfred D. Tutela, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

ADT:ss

School committee/minutes